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Public School Violence

July 7, 2004

Michael K. Powell, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

MB Docket No. 04-207

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing in opposition to the proposed "a la carte" cable system being considered in Congress, as it does not benefit consumers. As a member of the New York State Assembly, and a representative of the Bronx, this "a la carte" cable system would be detrimental to the residents of my district. My district, which is the 77th Assembly District in the South Bronx, is comprised of many African American and Hispanic constituents, as well as countless other ethnic groups. For many years, these minority groups did not have a voice to call their own, or a medium in which they could inform their community about issues affecting them.

Often times these groups were not portrayed in a positive light, and were unfairly judged by what others saw of them on channels that did not reflect what their culture is truly about. After many years without a voice, channels such as BET, Telemundo, and Bronxnet were created to give not only these minority groups a voice, but our borough as a whole. In addition, other networks such as Oxygen, WE (Women's Entertainment), have been forged to combat women's issues. Channels such as these and the issues that they address help to save lives and educate our community. Due to recent increases in cable channel capacity, there are now more channels that reflect how diverse our nation truly is. By proposing to eliminate these multicultural and gender outlets, you would be attempting to eliminate the patchwork that has made America the nation that it is today.

The aforementioned channels are only a few on a broad base of channels that cater to the needs of every person throughout America. These channels focus on educating individuals so that they understand their rights as members of society and provides them with necessary skills to